

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 124261  
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00  
L-03 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /077 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AN:WARILEY:JG  
APPROVED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES  
NEA/ARN:CMONROE  
CAB:MPETT  
EB/OA/AN:RABROWN  
-----116271 170607Z /13

R 161854Z MAY 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS STATE 124261

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SY

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: SUSPENSION OF PAN AM SERVICE TO DAMASCUS

REF: (A) BEIRUT 20604 (B) DAMASCUS 2716

1. PAN AM SUBMITTED APPLICATION TO CAB MAY 8 REQUESTING  
PERMISSION TO SUSPEND SERVICE TO DAMASCUS FOR AN  
INDEFINITE PERIOD BEGINNING JUNE 30.
2. RATIONALE FOR REQUEST IS THAT SERVICE IS UNECONOMICAL  
AND WAS INTRODUCED ONLY BECAUSE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT REQUIRED  
STOP AT DAMASCUS PRIOR TO AUTHORIZING OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS  
AND BECAUSE OF SLIGHT STIMULATION OF TRAFFIC AT DAMASCUS  
DUE TO CLOSURE OF BEIRUT.  
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3. PARAGRAPH 4 US-SYRIA AGREEMENT EFFECTED BY EXCHANGE OF  
NOTES MARCH 14 AND 16, 1977, AMENDING AND IMPLEMENTING THE  
AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT OF APRIL 28, 1947, GRANTED  
PERMISSION FOR US DESIGNATED AIRLINE TO OVERFLY SYRIA  
WITHOUT RESTRICTION. PAN AM NOTES NEW YORK-DAMASCUS

TRAFFIC HAS BEEN MODEST, 1774 PASSENGERS IN 1976,  
DECLINING TO 1148 IN 1977 IN CONTRAST TO MORE THAN 10  
THOUSAND PASSENGERS CARRIED BY PAN AM BETWEEN NEW YORK  
AND BEIRUT IN 1974. SINCE ALIA FLIGHTS STARTED JULY 8,  
1977, PAN AM CARRIED AN AVERAGE OF ONLY 55 NEW YORK-  
DAMASCUS PASSENGERS PER MONTH OR 8 PER FLIGHT.

4. ECONOMICS OF SERVICE WILL FURTHER DETERIORATE WITH  
747 SERVICE PLANNED EAST OF ROME TO TEHRAN BEGINNING  
JULY 1, 1978, AND PAN AM STATES THAT THERE IS NO  
SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC NEED TO CONTINUE SERVICE TO DAMASCUS  
SINCE ONLY ONE WEEKLY FLIGHT WILL BE AFFECTED.

5. RESUMPTION OF SERVICE TO BEIRUT: PAN AM BRIEF  
BEFORE CAB STATES: "BEIRUT IS CLEARLY THE CITY TO BE  
SERVED IN THIS AREA OF THE MIDDLE EAST. PAN AM IS  
HOPEFUL THAT RESUMPTION OF SERVICE TO BEIRUT WILL BECOME  
FEASIBLE IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE. IT IS WATCHING  
THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND WILL RESUME SERVICES AT THE  
EARLIEST FEASIBLE OPPORTUNITY."

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, AIR ROUTES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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